



CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

volume LXXV, number 33

San Luis Obispo

October 28, 2010

# Remember the 1960 Mustangs

*Survivors tell the story of the tragic event that killed 22 people on Oct. 29, 1960.*

**Brian De Los Santos**

MUSTANGDAILYSPO RTS@GMAIL.COM

It's been 50 years since that foggy night in Toledo, Ohio. The night when the simple decision to board a twin-engine C-46 meant life or death.

Former Cal Poly fullback Carl Bowser hasn't forgotten that day. As each anniversary passes, Bowser remembers the people who were lost on Oct. 29. Around the time that day rolls around this year, he will drive to the cemeteries where his old teammates are buried with three red roses in hand.

Each rose will honor a certain teammate of his from the 1960 Cal Poly football team, the team that became nationally known after the plane they were in crashed flying out of Toledo.

Bowser was on that plane, the flight in which 22 of the 48 on board lost their lives.

The first rose will honor Larry Austin, a former end who left behind a wife and a baby. The second will honor Joe Copeland,

a former center who also left behind a wife. The final rose will be in honor of Curtis Hill, a former Cal Poly end who many thought would reach NFL stardom.

"I was around these guys my whole life," Bowser said. "Larry Austin was my best friend, he was sitting right in front of me ... What I couldn't understand was why did I live?"

Bowser has made routine trips like this for years. He stops by when he can to visit his old buddies' graves. Most of the time, he said, there are no words. He'll stand there in silence. But this year — the 50th anniversary — as he lays each rose over each grave, he will make sure to deliver a message.

"Hang in there boys," he plans to say. "I am going to catch up with you."

## Bowling beat down

Cal Poly had a powerhouse football program in the late 1950s. Under head coach LeRoy Hughes, whose 12-year career ended

in 1961, the Mustangs went 73-37-1. From 1952-1959, Cal Poly combined for a 59-18 overall record, including an undefeated season when the team went 9-0 in 1953. Prior to 1960, most of the team's successes were due to an experienced senior class.

But most graduated coming into the 1960 season, leaving sophomores and juniors to try and keep the tradition going. Guys like quarterback Ted Tollner and center Gil Stork tried to live up to the expectations of the experienced team the year before, who went 6-3 overall.

"They had a great senior core," Stork said. "But by the time we (underclassmen) arrived at the varsity scene, there were only eight seniors ... we were mostly a sophomore and junior football team with a powerhouse schedule."

Cal Poly opened the season at Brigham Young University and lost by a score of 34-14. The Mustangs came home to defeat San Diego State 34-6 and then suffered three straight losses to Montana State, Fresno State

and Long Beach State.

Their next game forced them to travel to Ohio for a matchup against Bowling Green. Cal Poly would have to pull out one of its best performances of the season in order to win. Bowling Green was no pushover, former Cal Poly running back Roger Kelly said.

"We probably shouldn't have been playing them," Kelly said.

Kelly was right, the Mustangs couldn't compete. The team fell for the fifth time that season, losing 50-6. Kelly scored the only touchdown, a 60-yard or so punt return, he said.

"They beat the tar out of us," Kelly said. "It was a very humiliating experience."

The game stood out in Kelly's and many players' minds, but what may have been more memorable was the flight home.

## Fog

The game finished mid-afternoon and there was some time to burn on campus until

see 1960, page 2

**First Row from left:** Don O'Meara, Don Adams, Russ Woods, Benny Martin, Coach LeRoy Hughes, Marshall Kulju, Bob Johnson, Bill Stewart, E. Gary Van Horn

**Second Row from left:** Dick McBride, John Reardon, Mike Young, Dean Carlson, Roy Scialabba, Jim Ledbetter, Brent Jobe, Doug Minton, Clark Tuthill, John Bell, General Owens

**Third Row from left:** Ted Tollner, Norton Engen, Walt Shimek, Gil Stork, Al Marinai, Lynn Lobaugh, Guy Hennigan, John Ramsey, Wayne Sorenson, Rod Baughn, John Brennan, Fred Brown

**Fourth Row from left:** Athletic Trainer Terry Betterton, Team Manager Wendell Miner, Joe Copeland, Curtis Hill, Larry Austin, Roger Kelly, Billy Ross, Ray Porras, Bill Dauphin, Carl Bowser, Skip Stratton, Coach Walt Johnson

**Not in picture:** Mustang Team Booster Pete Bachino, Rudy Bezmarevich, James Fahey, Vic Hall, Coach Sheldon Harden, Dr. Arthur James, Telegram-Tribune Sports Editor Johnny Nettleship, Coach Howie O'Daniels and Jerry Williams

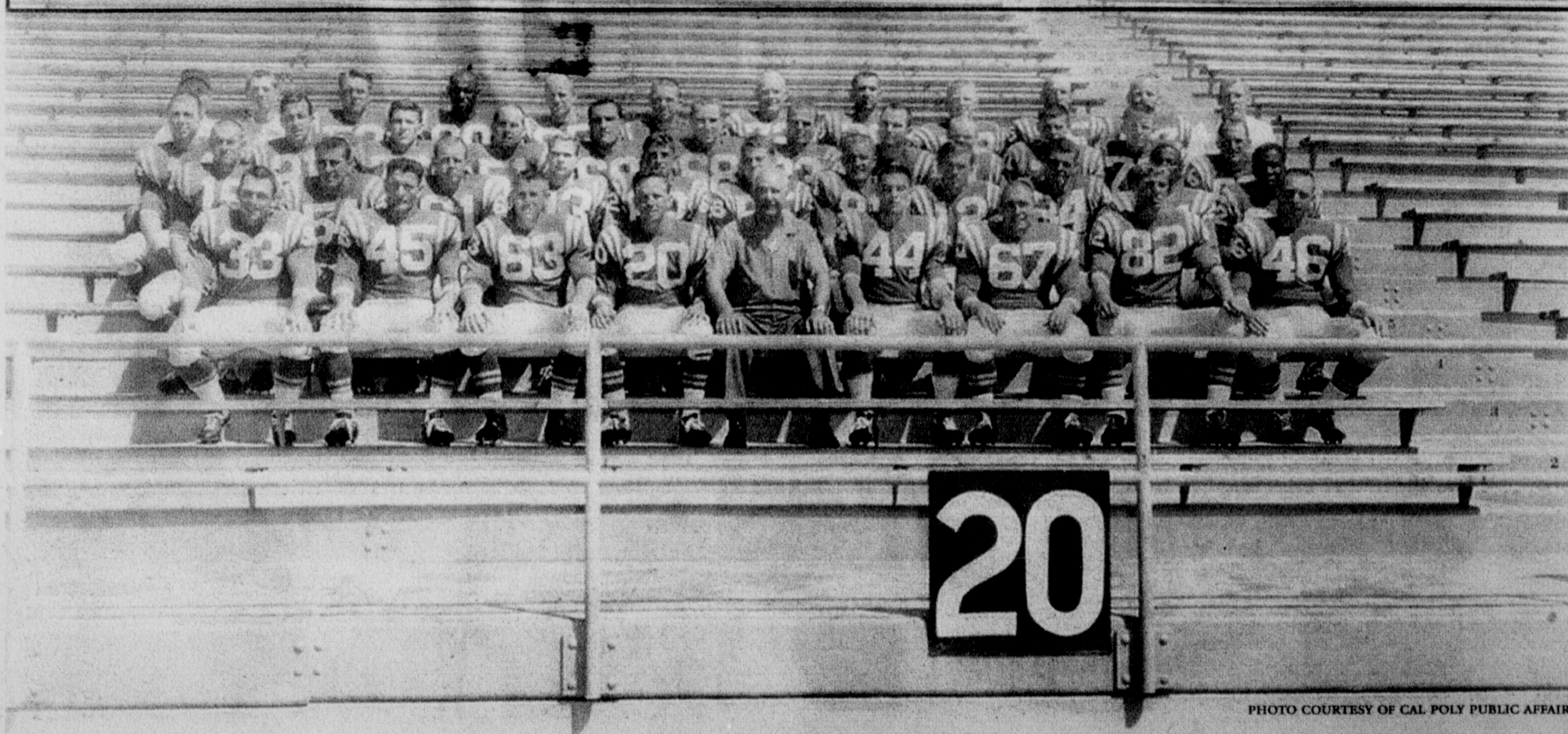
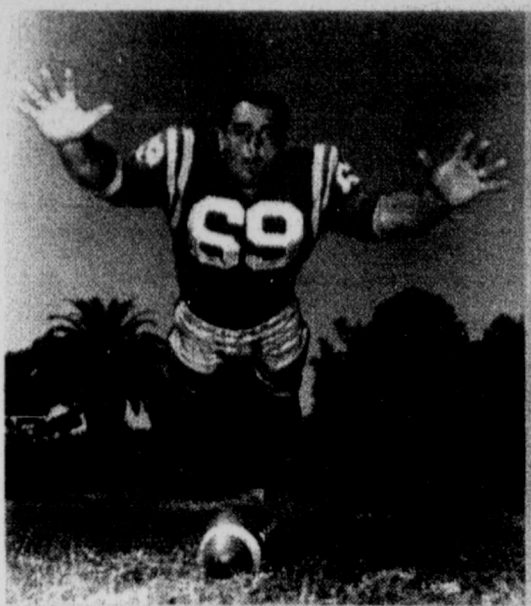


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in a hospital room."

#### Lost but not forgotten

It wasn't until Stork was in the hospital that he found out the details of what happened that night. He had no idea which of his friends had passed away. He had no idea what caused the plane to crash. He was in the dark, he said, and no one wanted the burden of telling him the unbearable news.

Stork said it wasn't until someone brought in a newspaper that he saw the figures and the names of all the people who died.

"That was a real shock for me," Stork said. "People that were friends of mine were suddenly gone, it was the first time I had ever experienced anything like that."

He couldn't understand why he was so lucky.

"How was I allowed to survive and someone who had four girls was killed?" Stork said "It just didn't make any sense at all."

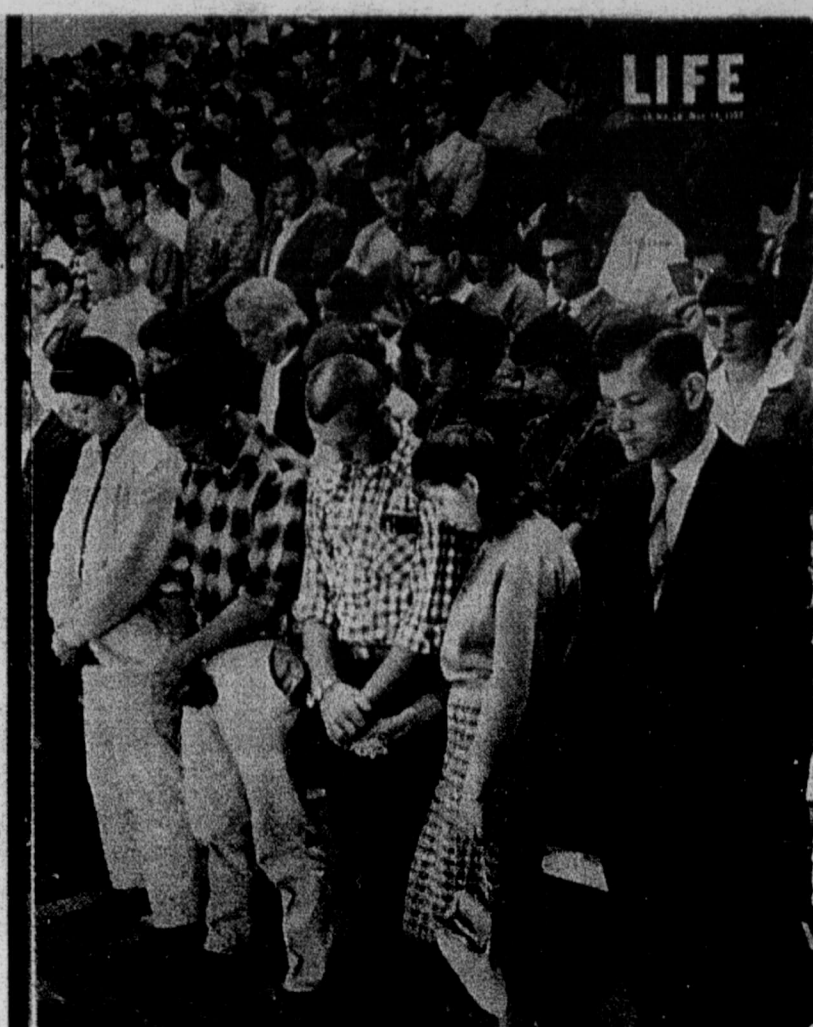
Sixteen players, one student manager, a member of the Mustang Booster Club, the two pilots and two others died that night. The crash, the first involving a U.S. sports team, also left five women widowed and nine children without fathers.

"All of them were great people," Scialabba said. "They were hard working people. Hard working, dedicated people. We miss all of them."

The deaths sent a shock wave around the country. A game called the Mercy Bowl was played in their honor and reportedly raised anywhere from \$170,000 to \$275,000 for the families who had lost sons, husbands and fathers. More than 33,000 fans attended the Mercy Bowl to see Fresno State defeat Bowling Green 36-6.

Cal Poly alumnus John Madden helped as well. Madden, who had played football at Cal Poly from 1957-1958, pieced together a benefit match with the Allan Hancock Junior College team, where he coached at the time.

The Arctic-Pacific company — the team in charge of the C-46 that night — lost its license to fly. On Nov. 1, 1960, The Blade reported that the government "issued an order grounding all planes operated by Arctic Pacific." In ad-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAL POLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

dition, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reviewed its procedures concerning taking off with poor visibility. Previously, pilots had the final decision on whether or not to take off for flight. After the crash, the FAA gave air traffic controllers the final say.

Cal Poly felt the impact immediately. On Oct. 31, classes were dismissed at 10 a.m. so students could attend a memorial in Crandall Gymnasium. It was filled to capacity.

Back in Ohio, the players remained in three different hospitals. For guys with injuries such as Kelly's, it wasn't until late December that they were allowed to return home.

"I wasn't able to talk to many people when I was in the hospital," Kelly said. "I was pretty sick and I had tubes running everywhere in my body. I was in and out of it. I'd lost probably 35 pounds in probably a week, week and a half."

His injuries kept him in a full body cast for about three months he said, but once he got better he started playing football again. Kelly was one of 10 survivors to play on the football team the next season, one many people thought would never see the field.

"After the crash they could have just dropped football and never had a program again," Tollner said. "It could have been very easy to do that just because they had to rebuild everything ... There was so much pressure

put on the university, the president and administration to drop football. They kept the sport alive and I am very appreciative."

The Mustangs finished the season prematurely in 1960, canceling their last three games and ending the season with a record of 1-5. In the season after the tragic crash, the Mustangs returned to the field with 35 players. That team blew the previous season's record out of the water, finishing 5-3 in Hughes' last year as head coach.

"Once they decided we are going to have a season and we were able to win a couple games, we wanted to help overcome a tragedy so that the university can continue to have a football program as part of its athletic department," Tollner said. "We were very proud."

Still, not even a winning record could make mourning the deaths of their teammates less painful. It wasn't easy to move past the crash and for most, it took years, Stork said. As he views it, there is a reason each one of those players aboard that plane lived. It was a second

chance of sorts, he said, and he and his teammates are determined to make the most of it.

Most have come a long way. Tollner is now the passing game coordinator with the Oakland Raiders, Bowser spent most of his days coaching football for multiple teams in Bakersfield, Calif. and Stork is the president of Cuesta Community College in San Luis Obispo.

But no matter how far they have gone in their lives, no matter what they have done or how far they have traveled, most just want to make one thing clear: Their teammates who died that day are far from forgotten.

"We never want to forget, we never want it to go away in our minds," Stork said. "If it goes away we will have lost that importance of what that event meant to us. If I forget them, I will forget the reason I do what I do."

— Stefan Ball, Kristy Gonzalez, J.J. Jenkins and Leticia Rodriguez contributed to this article.





# Mustang Memorial Plaza: remembrance to those never forgotten

Mustang Memorial Plaza opened on Sept. 29, 2006, at Alex G. Spanos Stadium to honor the 18 people who died when a plane carrying the 1960 Cal Poly football team flying out of Toiedo Express Airport crashed on the runway.

The Memorial consists of 18 granite plaques mounted on 18 copper pillars, each honoring a single individual — the 16 players, team manager and Mustang Booster — who died that night.

It was the first formal memorial built for the team on campus.

"We were talking a lot about (how) this will bring closure to a lot of people," said former Cal Poly center Gil Stork, who survived the crash. "We really needed an event to bring closure, but it was just the opposite. What that event reminded me of was that we never wanted to forget, we never want it to go away in our minds. If it goes away we will have lost that importance of what that event meant to us."



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## Those who died:

**PETE BACHINO**, 61, team booster, San Luis Obispo  
**JAMES GARY LEDBETTER**, 19, center, Sacramento, Calif.  
**RODNEY BAUGHN**, 21, tackle, San Gabriel, Calif.  
**Captain DONALD CHESHER**, pilot, Oakland, Calif.  
**GUY HENNIGAN**, 20, tackle, Huntington Park, Calif.  
**CURTIS HILL**, 21, end, Bakersfield, Calif.  
**LYNN LOBAUGH**, 20, guard, Huntington Park, Calif.  
**WENDELL MINER**, 21, team manager  
**WAYNE SORENSON**, 20, quarterback, Los Angeles, Calif.  
**VICTOR HALL**, 21, halfback, Los Angeles, Calif.  
**JOHN BELL**, 26, halfback, Chicago, Ill.  
**WILLIAM STEWART**, 19, end, Monterey Park, Calif.  
**LARRY AUSTIN**, 25, end, Bakersfield, Calif.  
**JOSEPH COPELAND**, 25, center, Bakersfield, Calif.  
**E. GARY VAN HORN**, 22, halfback, Paso Robles, Calif.  
**RICHARD CARLSON**, 20, halfback, Lompoc, Calif.  
**RAY PORRAS**, 27, fullback, Bakersfield, Calif.  
**HOWARD PERKOVICH**, 30, co-pilot, Martinez, Calif.  
**MARSHALL KULJU**, 21, halfback, Antioch, Calif.  
**DONALD O'MEARA**, 25, fullback, Madera, Calif.  
**MRS. MABEL PERKOVICH**, 60, Elkton, Md., co-pilot's mother  
**MRS. BETTY PERKOV**, 30, Elkton, Md., co-pilot's sister-in-law



## LOS ANGELES COLISEUM MERCY BOWL

ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1960, THE CAL POLY FOOTBALL TEAM WAS ON ITS WAY TO A TRAIL GAME WITH BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY IN LOS ANGELES. THE TOLEDO EXPRESS AIRPLANE, WHICH WAS ON THE WAY TO LOS ANGELES, CRASHED ON THE RUNWAY, KILLING 18 PEOPLE AND INJURING 20. THE CAL POLY TEAM WAS ON BOARD THE PLANE AND WAS KILLED OR INJURED. THE CAL POLY TEAM WAS ON BOARD THE PLANE AND WAS KILLED OR INJURED. THE CAL POLY TEAM WAS ON BOARD THE PLANE AND WAS KILLED OR INJURED.

**PLAYERS:**  
 DON ADAMS  
 FRED BROWN  
 BOB JOHNSON  
 WALT WILLIAMSON  
 BILL DAUPHIN  
 WALTER SHIMEK  
 TED TOLLNER  
 DICK MEYER  
 CARL BOWSER  
 BRENT JOBE  
 JERRY WILLIAMS  
 GENERAL OWENS  
 SHELDON HARDEN  
 ROGER KELLY

MAY WE ALWAYS HAVE MERCY FOR OUR TELLING  
 MAN IN HIS TIME OF TRIAL AND TRIBULATION

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## STUDENT MEMORIAL BENEFIT

For Cal Poly Football Personnel  
and Dependents



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VS FRESNO STATE FROSH

NOVEMBER 18, 1960

CAL POLY STADIUM  
San Luis Obispo

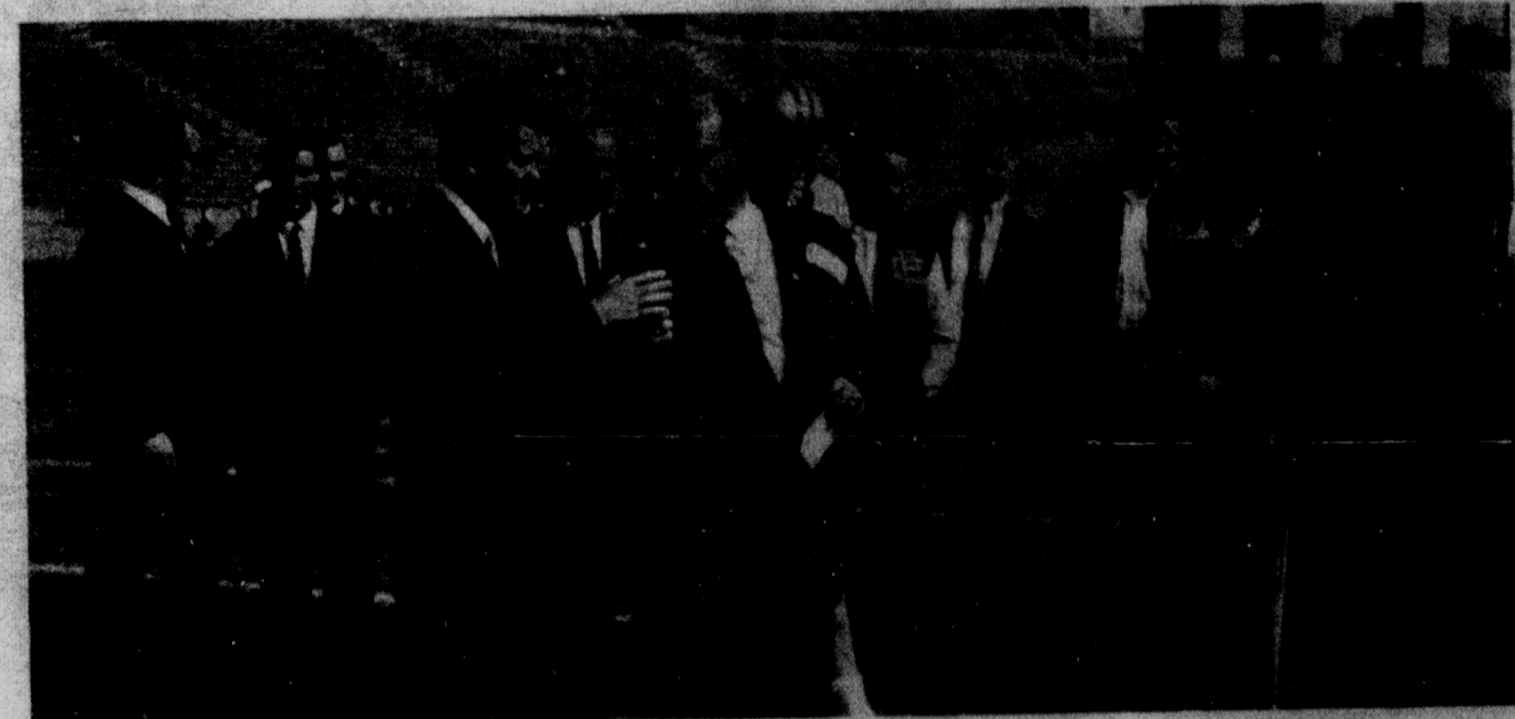
## Injured:

**JAMES FAHEY**, Gilroy, Calif., player  
**LeROY HUGHES**, 54, San Luis Obispo, head coach  
**JOHN NETTLESHIP**, 51, Telegram, sports editor, San Luis Obispo  
**HOWARD O'DANIELS**, assistant coach  
**DR. ARTHUR JAMES**, 38, Arroyo Grande, Calif., team physician  
**MRS. PENNY MILLER**, 34, Seattle, Wash., stewardess  
**BILL ROSS**, Bakersfield, Calif., player  
**RUSSELL WOODS**, Bakersfield, Calif., player  
**GIL STORK**, San Luis Obispo, player  
**DON ADAMS**, Modesto, Calif., player  
**JOHN BRENNAN**, Glendale, Calif., player  
**AL MARINAL**, San Francisco, Calif., player  
**ROY SCIALABBA**, San Bernardino, Calif., player  
**FRED BROWN**, Albany, Calif., player  
**BOB JOHNSON**, Detroit, Mich., player  
**WALT WILLIAMSON**, backfield coach, San Luis Obispo  
**BILL DAUPHIN**, Shafter, Calif., player  
**WALTER SHIMEK**, 20, Alberta, Canada, a player  
**TED TOLLNER**, Palo Alto, Calif., player  
**DICK MEYER**, Bakersfield, Calif., player  
**CARL BOWSER**, Bakersfield, Calif., player  
**BRENT JOBE**, Vista, Calif., player  
**JERRY WILLIAMS**, Santa Monica, Calif., player  
**GENERAL OWENS**, Barstow, Calif., player  
**SHELDON HARDEN**, assistant coach  
**ROGER KELLY**, San Luis Obispo, player



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## Police crack down Halloween weekend

Marisa Bloch

MARISABLOCH.MD@GMAIL.COM

A warning for all students looking to party hard for Halloween this weekend: fines will be doubled.

In an attempt to decrease the amount of students partying, the San Luis Obispo Police Department (SLOPD) and Cal Poly's University Police Department (UPD) will strictly enforce special Halloween laws related to drugs, alcohol and noise.

Sergeant Jeff Smith from SLOPD said they will be using the city's "Safety Enhancement Plan" this weekend to help keep the partying under control.

"This plan allows officers to double the fines for noise violations, urinating in public, open containers, drunk in public and other alcohol related problems," Smith said.

Police have seen several Facebook groups regarding events (parties specifically) taking place over Halloween weekend and are worried students from out of the San Luis Obispo area will come to town.

"One of our fears is that through these groups we have seen that not just SLO residents are attending," Smith said. "There are people from all over saying SLO is the place to go to party for Halloween this year."

As a result of the tendency for parties to quickly get out of control, Smith said the amount of arrests and violations have gone up in the past few years, especially on the north end of town near campus. To prevent this, police have a zero tolerance policy.

"When we receive complaints, we will be taking action," Smith said.

However, police won't be the only ones on patrol this weekend. Members of the Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP), an organization of trained Cal Poly and Cuesta students who warn parties when there is a noise complaint, will also be out, Smith said. While the students can't give citations, they can alert nearby police if they see reckless or hostile behavior.

However, there is no guarantee that all parties will be given a warning before a fine.

"It is at our discretion on whether or not we fine," Smith said. "We assess the situation and then decide."

SLOPD plans to have maximum deployment Friday through Sunday of Halloween weekend, meaning they will have the maximum allowed officers on duty. The officers will mainly be distributed near campus and downtown.

Although law enforcement will be very strict over the weekend, Smith said there are ways students can have fun and stay out of trouble.

"Make sure you go to bars where it's legal or stay inside a party," he said. "No open containers and avoid bad situations."

Several students have expressed frustration over heightened fines and regulations this Halloween. Economics senior Brian Costello said he is upset police can change the amount of fines based on a specific date.

"You have laws that state what the normal fines are, but for specific dates you can change the fines," Costello said. "That doesn't seem right."

Nick Jacoy, a graphic communication senior at Cal Poly, lives on Hathway Street and said the only problem he has with the partying on Hathway is the occasional vandalism. He said the increased fines won't stop people from partying.

"(The increased fines) are ridiculous," Jacoy said. "People are still going to throw parties and drink; at most it will cause people to go out of town."

Jacoy said overall, the doubling of fines this weekend won't stop him from having a good time.

"I have been around SLO for a while and I pretty much know how to keep things under control so we stay out of trouble," he said.

A recent press release from SLOPD warns students of some of the main increased fines this weekend.

- First offense noise violation — \$700
- Urinating in public — \$700
- Open container — \$700
- Unruly gathering — \$1,000
- Serving alcohol to minors — \$700



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## Study says dropouts cost taxpayers billions annually

Stefan Ball

STEFANBALL.MD@GMAIL.COM

USA Today revealed earlier this month that just under \$8 billion of taxpayer money is spent annually on students who drop out of college after their first year. The question arises whether or not this is an issue which affects Cal Poly significantly and what Cal Poly does to fight the trend.

Cal Poly's first-year dropout rate in 2008 was 8.6 percent, a figure Director of International Planning and Analysis Brent Goodman said is significantly lower than many institutions. Goodman said the goal at many colleges is to focus on the students least likely to drop out and stay away from students who are unlikely to succeed but at Cal Poly it's different.

"We've got high-quality students," Goodman said. "They're all very likely to succeed."

Despite having less to deal with in terms of dropouts, Cal Poly has made changes over the past few years to help students who seem to be struggling, as well as make it easier for students to see the full picture when making progress on their degrees.

"Everything we do is focused on trying to get students progressing to a degree," Associate Vice Provost for Systems and Resources Kim Ikeda said.

Last year, the Office of the Registrar targeted students who seemed to be struggling after fall quarter. Those students then took a survey and met with advisers in a workshop, followed by follow-up communications. Students showed an average grade point average improvement of 0.875. The program will begin again this year in a more expanded form.

"We try and help students to be successful, to stay on track," Associate Registrar Debbie Arseneau said. "So we're doing early detection of students who are maybe having trouble and we're going out and approaching them. We're not waiting for them to come to us."

Arseneau said the advising on campus is being looked at as a whole to facilitate early connections between students and advisers. She said they're making a push to make sure students can get seats in the classes they need, avoid having to re-take classes and graduate on time.

This falls in line with Cal Poly's

see Dropouts, page 6

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## Local businesses caught selling to minors

Amanda Sedo

AMANDASEDO.MD@GMAIL.COM

Six local businesses sold alcohol to a minor during a decoy operation conducted by the San Luis Obispo Police Department (SLOPD) on Oct. 18, according to a SLOPD press release.

The decoy operation involved a 19-year old woman who attempted to buy alcohol at 21 local businesses in San Luis Obispo. Six of the businesses that sold alcohol to the minor were Edna Valley Shell, Laurel Lane Liquors, 7-Eleven's on Marsh St. and California Blvd., Scolari's and University Gas, according to a SLOPD news release.

The decoy presented clerks with a valid license which clearly stated she was underage and also was required to answer truthfully when asked for her age. Some of the businesses sold her the alcohol anyway.

Clerks at the six Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) licensed businesses could face a fine of \$250 and up to 32 hours of community service for the first violation. Also, the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control may suspend the business's liquor license, fine the business or revoke the license entirely if multiple offenses have occurred.

Sergeant Keith Storton of SLOPD said these operations are

done often, but this one occurred after SLOPD applied for a grant to run the operation at no cost to the city.

As explained in the news release, the grant was awarded to SLOPD from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). This minor decoy operation is one of several enforcement and educational opportunities made possible through the grant to take place throughout the year.

Storton said this type of decoy operation is not the only type SLOPD runs in the city.

They run "shoulder tap" and "trap door" operations as well. The shoulder tap operation is when SLOPD places a minor outside of a liquor store to ask costumers to purchase alcohol for them. If the customer complies, then they are cited. The trap door operation consists of officers going to bars and standing outside with the bouncers to check identification.

However, many students feel like SLOPD is wasting its time.

"I don't think it's going to stop anything," earth sciences junior Kaylee Beckman said.

But with the party atmosphere at Cal Poly, Storton said the police department has a responsibility to crack down on businesses that are acting against the law.

"Because there is wide alcohol use by underage kids, there is un-

fortunately also a relationship between underage drinking and DUI's," Storton said.

Also, as stated in the press release, there is a relationship between underage drinking and numerous crimes such as assault, rape and vandalism.

By decreasing the ways minors can get their hands on alcohol, SLOPD hopes to also decrease the number of underage alcohol-related incidents.

Beckman said she does not think the decoy operations will make alcohol that much harder to get ahold of.

"Anyone like me that would want some booze will do anything possible to get some," she said.

Leah Loewenthal, an animal science junior, agreed.

"They can continue doing (the decoys) but we're in a college town; we're going to find a way to do it," she said. "And the real solution would be to change the drinking age to 18."

But for Storton, decreasing the non-compliance of businesses is a step in the right direction — a direction which could lead to less minors possessing and consuming alcohol.

"It is one step of many in order to reduce the amounts of DUI's and incidents involving minors with alcohol," Storton said.

## Pride center hosts suicide prevention workshop today

Hannah Croft

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's Pride Center wants to teach students, faculty and staff how to prevent suicides on campus.

There have been 11 suicides within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Ally (LGBTQIA) community nationwide since August. The Pride Center will host its prevention workshop today in hopes of putting a stop to the deaths, Pride Center Coordinator Jessica Cresci said.

This year is the first time the center will host a workshop like this, as part of campus' ALIVE! Mental Health Week. The Pride Center is putting on the event because of the recent suicides and to increase awareness about suicide, its warning signs and prevention, Cresci said.

"It's something we don't talk about much and I think we need to bring it to life," she said.

Members of the LGBTQIA community are four times as likely to commit suicide as those who identify as straight, Cresci said. More than one-third of LGBTQIA youth have attempted suicide.

Though the 11 suicides received heavy media coverage, Cresci said suicide is generally seen as a taboo subject and one the nation needs to address head-on. She said she wants to make the warning signs more clear and make resources more accessible.

Psychology professor Charles Slem, whose general psychology course covers suicide and mental illness, said suicide warning signs aren't hard to see.

"Warning signs are radical changes in mood," he said.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline said warning signs also include heavy use of drugs and alcohol, giving away possessions, talking about death, feeling hopeless and/or isolated and becoming withdrawn.

Cresci said she wants the warning signs to be common knowledge within the Cal Poly community.

"I really want this to be an awareness workshop, not just prevention," she said.

The biggest problem with suicides, especially the recent ones she said, is that most of them are preventable.

"I've heard a lot of people who've committed suicide and had their friends and family know some of the warning signs, it probably could have been prevented," Cresci said.

The workshop will not just be geared toward LGBTQIA students but toward anyone who wants to learn about preventing suicide, she said.

While suicide is prominent in the news, the national suicide rate is relatively low. The American Association of Suicidology said there are an estimated 34,000 suicides in the United States annually.

"Statistically, we can expect one or two suicides on campus every year," Slem said. "And Cal Poly is pretty consistent in that."

Suicide is often brought on by feelings of hopelessness, she said. The National Association of Mental Health said other causes include failure, rejection, disappointment and loss.

Both Cresci and Slem said the cluster of suicides could be attributed in part to media coverage and the attention the deaths received.

see Suicide, page 12

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MARK SCHNEIDER

## Dropouts

continued from page 5

recent push to have as many students as possible graduate in four years. Students who exceed the four-year mark cost taxpayers as well.

"You've got students that are coming and dropping out which you feel is wasted time," Goodman said. "And then you've got students who are finished but are just hanging around taking seats."

A student who takes 36 units and drops out costs taxpayers the same amount as a student who takes 36 extra units across their Cal Poly career. There will also always be students who drop out for legitimate and unavoidable economic or personal reasons.

Cal Poly has its own issues, choosing sometimes to spend money on students who want to study too much over students who drop out. But the school is making efforts to make being a student more efficient and effective.

"There have been road blocks for students," Goodman said. "(But Cal Poly's) done a lot this past year."



# Word on the Street

What are your plans for homecoming weekend?



"I plan on going to the game, it sounds like fun."

— Greg Finegan,  
liberal studies senior



"I'm not sure about my plans yet — I'll probably hang out with my friends."

— Sofia Archuleta,  
mathematics junior



"I'm going to an SHPE conference in Cincinnati this weekend."

— Manuel Carrasco,  
mechanical engineering senior



"I'm going to the game and the barn dance and trick-or-treating at my residence hall on Sunday."

— Melanie Hanlon,  
communication studies freshman



"I may go to the dance party in Muir and I want to go trick-or-treating."

— Ravi Sahai,  
general engineering junior



"I'm going to all the festivities: the dance, the tailgate and the game."

— Lindsey Murray,  
business administration senior



"I'm probably going to Santa Barbara for Halloween."

— Braden Fisk,  
earth sciences freshman



"I'm thinking about going to the game, but I'm not sure yet."

— Morgan O'Hare,  
environmental engineering junior



"My friend is coming down and we're going to have a lot of fun and beat St. Francis!"

— David Aguilar,  
journalism freshman



"I'll probably go to the game and stay in SLO for Halloween."

— Jen Gemkow,  
biomedical engineering sophomore



"I don't make plans ... plans make me."

— Eli Williams,  
English freshman



"I'm going to hang out with friends on Halloween."

— Marissa Kanemaru,  
nutrition junior

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## MultiCultural Center hosts 'Loteria' in UU Plaza

Jessica Tam

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In honor of Latino Heritage Month, Cal Poly's MultiCultural Center (MCC) and Student Life and Leadership will host "Loteria," a traditional Mexican bingo game at the University Union (UU) Plaza. The event will also include a Dia de los Muertos, otherwise known as "day of the dead," twist to celebrate the lives of the deceased.

Loteria — Spanish for lottery — is a board game played on a four-by-four card. Unlike bingo, which customarily calls out numbers and letters, loteria uses pictures and Spanish words. The object of the game is to correspond the Spanish word the announcer says with the picture on the player's card, attempting to get four horizontally or vertically. The game featured in the UU will attempt to parallel as much Mexican culture as possible.

Biological sciences junior and lead advocate for Latino Heritage Series Devon Buddan said MCC will make the game as close to the traditional version as possible.

"Traditionally in Mexico, they

will use beans as markers," Buddan said. "So, when we play the game, we'll actually be using pinto beans. When you win, you say 'Loteria!', and everyone says 'Bueno!'"

Originating in the 1800s, the game came to Mexico from Spain and "(became) a common game in Mexican-American households," said architecture junior and member of Movimiento Estudiantil Xicano de Aztlan (MEXA) Angela Varela.

Even though Varela has played the game various times with her family, the event held last year in the UU taught her things she didn't know before.

"I've played the game before many times, (but) I didn't know that there were (so) many variations of the loteria characters," Varela said. "The one I played at the event had caricatures of different skeleton characters."

Not only do the pictures stand out, but the game is featuring a "day of the dead" variation.

"There is going to be a Dia de los Muertos twist," Buddan said. "We're incorporating (this) twist to celebrate Halloween. (We've planned) a lot of arts and crafts ideas for students. This year, we'll most likely have clay skulls



Tuesday's 'Loteria' event will be held in UU Plaza and will include a celebration of Dia de los Muertos, or day of the dead.

as well as paints and brushes. People will get to decorate it (their) own way."

Participants of last year recall the decorations and vibrant creativity of attendees who adorned paper skulls.

"At the Dia de los Muertos event

see Loteria, page 9



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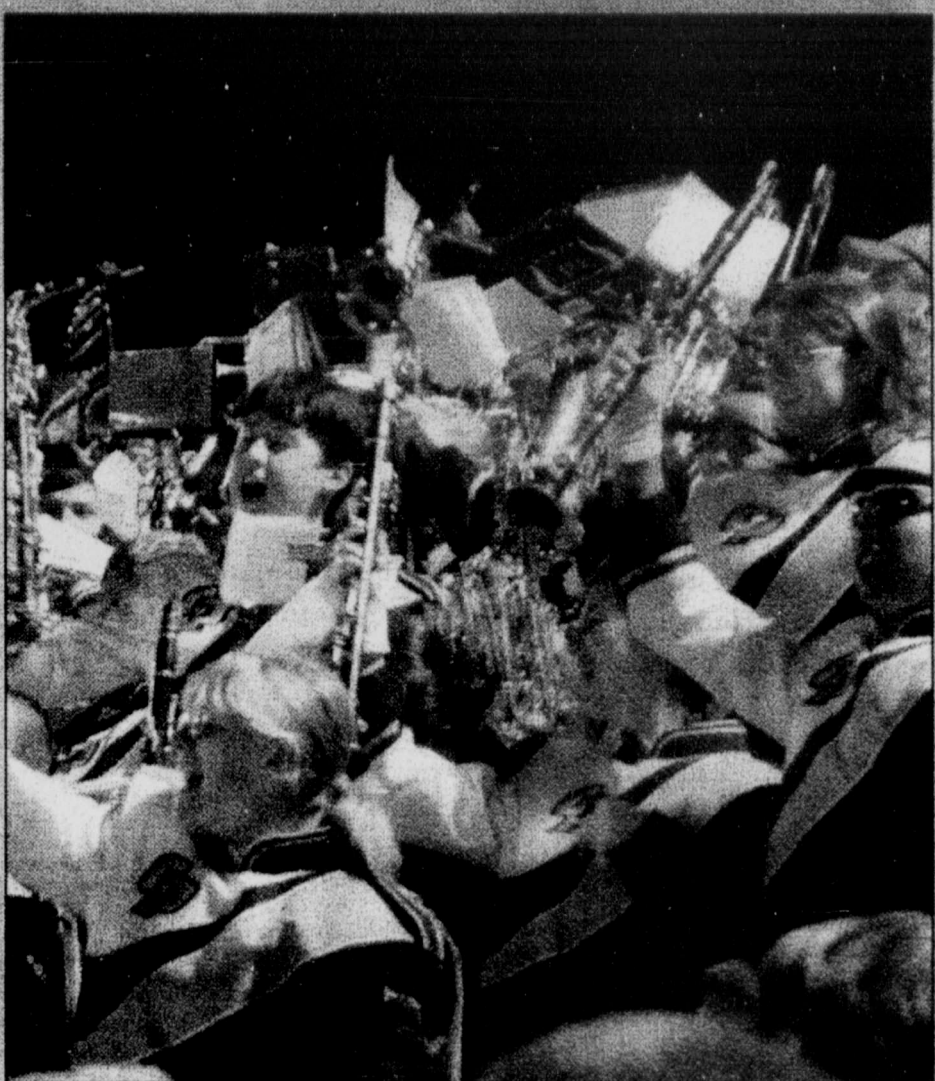
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## picture of the day

by Marion Fisher

"Homecoming pride"

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## Loteria

continued from page 8

held by the MCC and MEXA (last year), I really enjoyed looking at the different items (placed) at the altar," Varela said. "(There were) items ranging from photographs of loved ones to (decorative) candy skulls."

Even though the event is in its second year, MCC assistant coordinator James Rymel said it is not an annual event.

"(The MCC) has been doing this consistently for a few years but (it doesn't mean) Loteria itself is an annual thing — it's more like a traditional culture thing," Rymel said.

Additionally, partakers of last year are anticipating this year to be as exciting as the previous years.

"I expect it to be as fun as it was last year," Varela said. "Hopefully, I get to see more people come to the event and have a good time."

Loteria will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 2. The event is free and open to the public.



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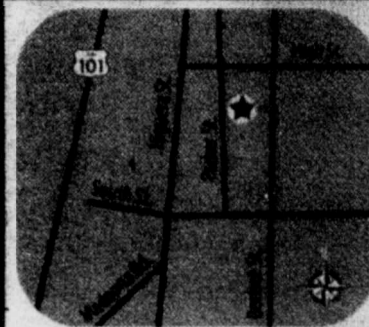
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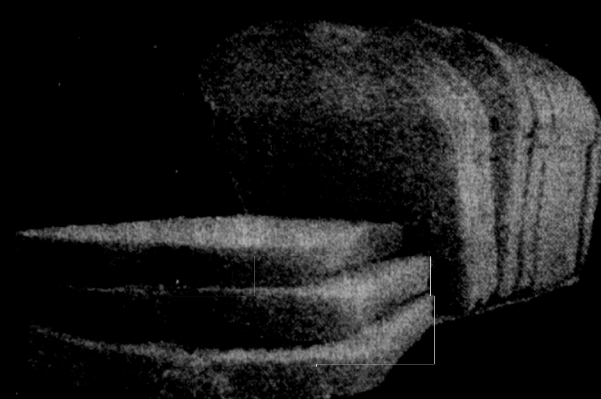
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## Questions plague football for homecoming

**Jerome Goyhenetche**  
JEROMEGOYHENETCHE.MD@GMAIL.COM

In the ninth week of the season, the Mustangs are back to square one. The question surrounding the Mustangs coming into week one of the season has surfaced again.

Will it be quarterback Tony Smith or Andre Broadous starting

kota last week, allowing Smith the starting spot at quarterback again.

The start was Smith's first in six weeks, dating back to the game against Montana on Sept. 11. He led Cal Poly to a 22-21 win over North Dakota, completing 12 of 16 passes for 80 yards and one interception.

Broadous said he has trained rigorously the past two weeks in hopes

**"I've been in the training room at least three times a day, just trying to do whatever I can do to get myself back to 100 percent."**

— Andre Broadous  
Cal Poly quarterback

under center when the Mustangs (5-3, 1-1 Great West) host St. Francis (Pa.) (1-6, 1-4) this weekend in Alex G. Spanos Stadium?

Broadous left with a shoulder injury after the last play against Southern Utah and didn't start in Cal Poly's game against North Da-

of starting in the homecoming game, which would be his first start at home with the Mustangs.

"I've been in the training room at least three times a day," Broadous said. "Just trying to do whatever I

see Football, page 11

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## sports

### Football

*continued from page 10*

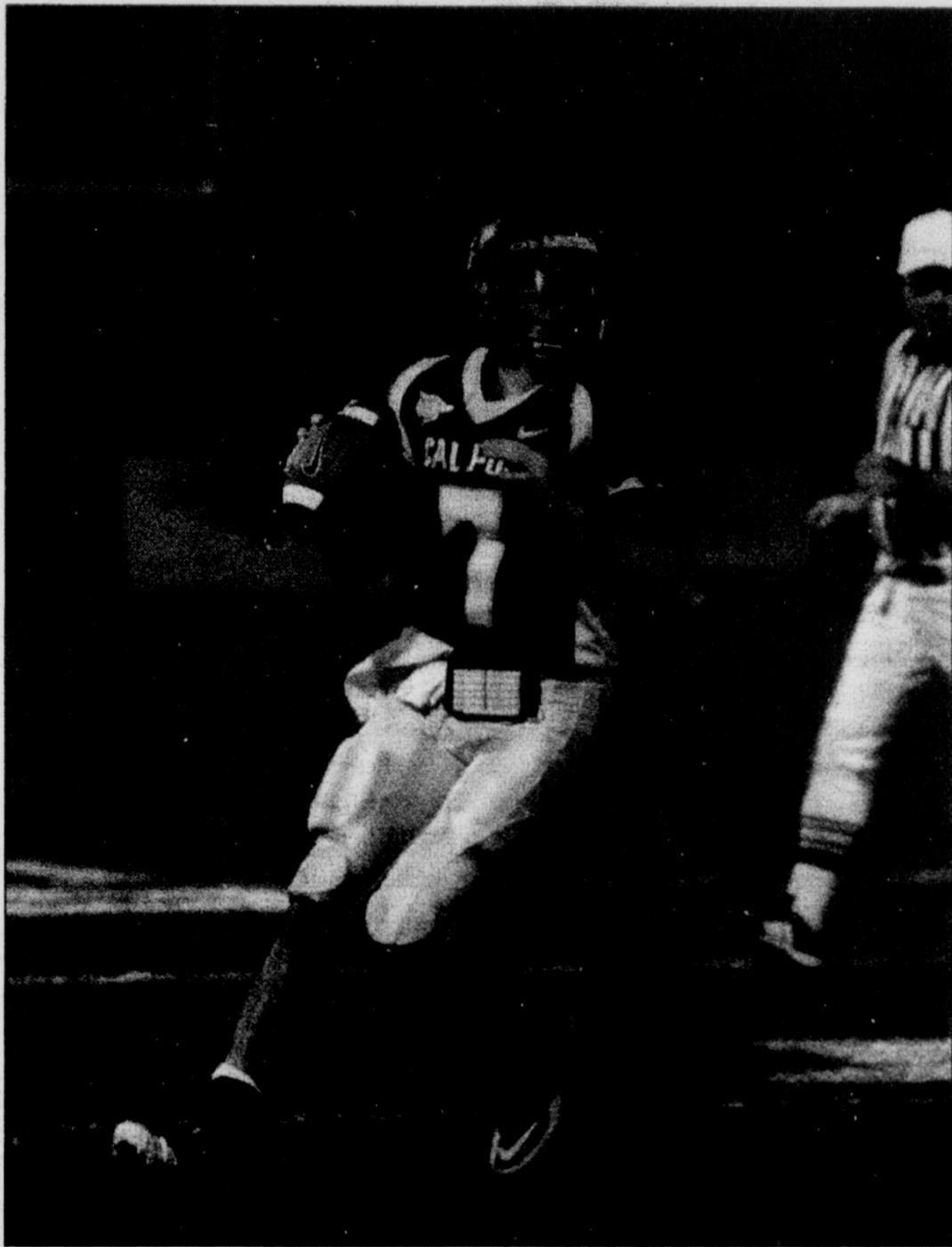
can do to get myself back to 100 percent for Saturday night."

Head coach Tim Walsh said Broadous' physical condition is im-

proving, but it is still undecided if he will get the start.

"Whether he plays this week remains to be seen," Walsh said at Monday's press conference. "He was much better (Monday) than he was

*see Football, page 12*



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Quarterback Tony Smith threw for 80 yards in his first start since Sept. 11.

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## Football

continued from page 11

on Friday (and) giving him Saturday and Sunday off was a big help. We'll make the decision based on how he progresses throughout the week."

Smith, who played in all 11 games last season, said he would be ready to play if he gets the start or not.

"Anytime I'm healthy and I'm

ready to play, it's my obligation to my teammates and my duty to have to go out and practice as if I'm going to play, no matter what the situation is," Smith said.

Smith has completed 24 of 40 passes for 169 yards and one touchdown so far this season, while Broadous, who had his first collegiate start against McNeese State in September, has completed 41 of 64 passes in five games for 510 yards and four touchdowns.

Junior fullback Jake Romanelli

said he is confident in the ability of either of the two quarterbacks in leading the team to a fourth straight home win.

"They're both great players," Romanelli said. "They both know how to run the offense, they both know how to take us through the right plays and win. They have great intangibles that help the offense run."

With an undefeated record at home this season and averaging 10,196 fans at homecoming games since 2006, home field advantage

means even more this weekend to the players with the 50th anniversary of the 1960 plane crash, Romanelli said.

"There is definitely a lot of meaning behind this game since it is the anniversary of the plane crash and even a couple of the survivors will be there, along with the fact it is the homecoming game," Romanelli said. "The crowd will definitely be a factor."

Cal Poly will play St. Francis in football for the first time in its history.

St. Francis started the year with losses to Liberty and Morehead State. It beat Sacred Heart 41-0 in its only win of the season before losing four straight to Robert Morris, Albany, Wagner and Monmouth. The team has averaged 14.9 points per game while giving up 29.6 points per game.

The game is Saturday at 6:05 p.m. in Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

— J.J. Jenkins contributed to this article.

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## Suicide

continued from page 6

"It's called the contagion effect," Slem said. "Because things get publicized, it primes people who are at risk already."

Slem said media often glorify suicide giving society a romantic "Romeo and Juliet" view of it.

Part of the reason there is so much media coverage, Cresci said, is because so many of the suicides revolve around bullying.

Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers University, jumped off the George Washington Bridge in September after his roommate recorded him in a sexual encounter with another man and made it public by sharing it with his friends and posting it on the Internet.

Seth Walsh, a 13-year-old Teahachapi boy hanged himself from a tree after being bullied for being gay. Despite complaints from both him and his parents, the school reportedly never took action against the bullies.

Cresci said bullies, especially at such a young age, are hard to discipline.

"It's really hard to take action against those bullies," she said. "They don't take words as seriously as others."

Slem said he hopes the Pride Center can be a haven for those who feel bullied, so they can get help and support before they feel helpless.

Cresci said she has the same hope. She said she would like to see Cal Poly become a more comfortable and accepting environment.

"We're talking about ways to make a difference and ways to make Cal Poly a more comfortable climate," she said.

The ultimate goal of the workshop, Cresci said, is to make sure everyone is aware of their resources.

"I want people to notice the warning signs," she said. "And I want to give them the tools to cope with them."

If the workshop can make the difference in one person's life, Cresci said, it will have done its job.

The workshop will take place today from 12 to 2 p.m. in room 219 in the University Union (UU). It is free and open to the public.

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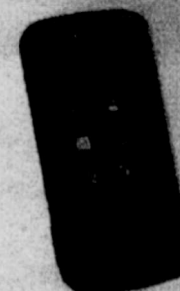
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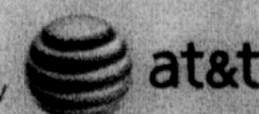
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Keeping the crowd on its feet and  
the players on their game

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Top 3 Homecoming \_\_\_\_\_ Pg. 24  
games of the decade

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For more information about Homecoming 2010, please visit [www.homecoming.calpoly.edu](http://www.homecoming.calpoly.edu).

Get your green on! And go Mustangs!

*Robert B. Glidden  
Interim President*





UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Homecoming included events such as a themed parade, float competition, a homecoming queen beauty pageant and, at one point, even an "Ugly Man" contest.

## Homecoming: Then and Now

Sarah Parr

SARAH.PARR.MD@GMAIL.COM

Many educational institutions in America share the annual tradition of homecoming, a spectacle which brings together alumni, residents and students for activities centered around the event.

For more than 100 years, the homecoming tradition at Cal Poly has brought celebration, athletics, activities such as rodeos and parades and school pride to both its alumni and current students.

### Homecoming: A history

The origins of Cal Poly's homecoming are rooted in an initiation ceremony and banquet for alumni in June 1907. Alumni wanted the celebration and reunion to occur annually and so began a Cal Poly tradition, according to the Polytechnic Journal of 1912.

The first official homecoming celebration occurred 17 years later. From Nov. 14 to Nov. 15, 1924, alumni came back to their alma mater to watch the first home football game of the season against Fresno State Teacher's College (now known as Fresno State). Coincidentally, the football team and Cal Poly adopted the Mustang as its official mascot that same day.

Homecoming was described in the

Polygram, a former Cal Poly newspaper, as a bonfire rally, the registration of alumni, visits around the school for alumni and a free luncheon the next day with coffee, buns, beans and pie for alumni and students.

After lunch, everybody ventured to the football game to watch stunts before the actual game. Then came a banquet and a homecoming ball for alumni.

For Cal Poly students living in the '20s, intercollegiate rivalry wasn't as strong as the rivalry between Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo High School (SLOHS). In fact, according to a handbook from 1927-1928, one day students from SLOHS constructed giant H's all over San Luis Obispo to prove their dominance. Cal Poly, then known as California Polytechnic School, countered these letters by changing them to P's. This went on for some time before the "P" was placed at its current location on the hillside facing campus. It has been there ever since.

In the '20s, freshmen were in charge of relining the 24 foot by 40 foot letter. They were also required to take care of the athletic fields, especially the football field during homecoming season, before retiring to the dorms.

Life in the dorms back then has some similarities to life in the dorms today with the exception of being co-ed.

"Oh how many memories that will recall!" an edition of Polygram said. "The chair fights, broom fights, ducking parties, crawling out of windows, etc."

During the next 20 years, homecoming brought more than 500 people to Cal Poly each year. In 1951, the first Homecoming Queen, 21-year-old El Corral Bookstore employee and wife of a Cal Poly student, Nancy Schlegel was crowned.

The addition of a homecoming queen became a progressive step forward in the history of Cal Poly.

Women were previously banned from admittance to Cal Poly in 1939 until Cal Poly officially began readmitting women in 1956.

Cal Poly originally borrowed homecoming queens from other schools, according to a "Golden Reunion" pamphlet from 1957. Cal Poly also hosted an "Ugly Man" contest to determine the ugliest man in attendance that year.

In the '50s and '60s, homecoming adopted a themed parade with a float contest. Contestants, who were typically clubs or organizations on campus, were judged on "depiction of theme, originality, workmanship, decorations and (overall) presentation."

The Crops Club was well-known for its successful floats during these two decades.

In 1966, the homecoming theme was "Would You Believe," so the Crops Club caught space race fever and created a space themed float called Shoot the Moon, according to a Homecoming Float Report compiled by float chairman Dane Petersen.

"The crops unit forklift was used to pull a trailer," Petersen wrote. "The forklift was covered with a revolving world depicting Cal Poly International. On the trailer was a rocket pointed toward a moon. A football player was on the rocket. Would You Believe, Cal Poly on the Moon?"

The Crops Club float won second place that year. The float was part of a parade on a route through downtown, which was peppered with cheap diners and drive-ins complete with 23 cent burgers and car repair shops, according to a 1958 football program.

As much attention as the float contest received, the following decade had a more popular event — the homecoming beauty queen pageant.

According to the 1972 application for Cal Poly's homecoming queen, the candidates were judged on poise, appearance, responses to questions and

see History page 17

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UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Homecoming 2010 will be the first time in six years that Cal Poly will host student activities in an attempt to bring back the excitement the tradition once fostered.



## History

continued from page 16

personality. Candidates were required to be a full-time student who had already completed three quarters at Cal Poly with at least a 2.0 grade point average.

Once a field of applicants was assembled, a pageant was held, finalists were picked and then an election to determine the homecoming court.

Later in the '70s, the Rodeo Club sponsored the first ever homecoming rodeo. With 25 teams and 200 entries, the rodeo was almost as big as the one held during Poly Royal.

During the '70s, honoring distinguished alumni during homecoming also became a tradition. The tradition continues to this day.

The '80s and '90s saw the addition of unique activities for students and alumni, including an art show and a fair considered a "Mini Poly Royal."

### A changing climate

In the early '90s, assistant Mustang Band director Len Kawamoto was a member of the Mustang Band.

"Back when I was a member of the band, Student Life used to host an array of spirit competitions for clubs, fraternities and sororities to participate," Kawamoto said.

Each participating group accumulated points in competitions during the course of homecoming week, Kawamoto said.

A memorable event Kawamoto remembers was a "mock rock" competition held during UU Hour of Homecoming Week during which members from different organizations on campus performed.

One of those competitions was the homecoming court process where fraternities, sororities and organizations on campus nominated their own candidates for king and queen. Other events included competitions at Farmers' Market for the groups and the homecoming court to participate in.

After the parade and float contest and during halftime of the football game, the winning groups were announced along with the king and queen, Kawamoto said.

Kawamoto said during the duration of the game, the band sees more band alumni in attendance as the years go by.

"Starting with the late '90s we started having a noticeable alumni band presence," Kawamoto said. "At the tailgate, the alumni band typically performs an additional set of tunes on their own while the regular band is preparing for (its) pre-game (routine)."

However, Kawamoto said the

overall homecoming tradition has changed.

"I'd say that over the years things have definitely dwindled," Kawamoto said.

### Today's tradition

Cal Poly stopped hosting student activities during homecoming in 2004, so the 2010 homecoming will be the first time in six years the university has seen student activities, said Chris McBride, assistant director for marketing and communications for the Cal Poly Alumni Association.

Industrial engineering senior and Poly Reps University Ambassadors alumni chair Chester Matkey organizes alumni events with McBride.

Matkey said Poly Reps joined forces with Mustang Maniacs this year in an attempt to bring back the old tradition of homecoming.

"It seems like it was a big deal back in the day," Matkey said. "The plan is to build homecoming back up."

Homecoming originally died down because the full-time coordinator position got cut, Matkey said.

This year, there is a homecoming court with a king and queen. Two nominees, a male and a female, are chosen for each college and the nominees will stand before a panel and answer questions.

Each college is responsible for using its own methods to choose its nominees. Nominees will most likely have remarkable extracurricular activity and academics, Matkey said. He said he hopes newer students will enjoy the activities put forth and will become enthusiastic about homecoming.

At the game, the Mustang Band anticipates reinvigorating old traditions.

"For the upcoming Homecoming game, we can expect an alumni band of over 35 members (or a combined band of about 180) and for the first in a long time, the alumni band will be performing with the regular band during halftime," Kawamoto said.

McBride also said she expects the game to be close to sold-out.

The football game will start at 6 p.m. and the homecoming queen and king will be announced during the halftime show.

Other events for this year's homecoming include a "Get Your Green On" spirit rally in the University Union (UU) Plaza today during UU hour; a dance for students who live on campus in the UU Plaza Friday from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.; a tailgate before the football game with food, refreshments, a performance by Killa Gorilla and an appearance by Chuck Lidell; and the Saturday football game versus St. Francis (Pa.).



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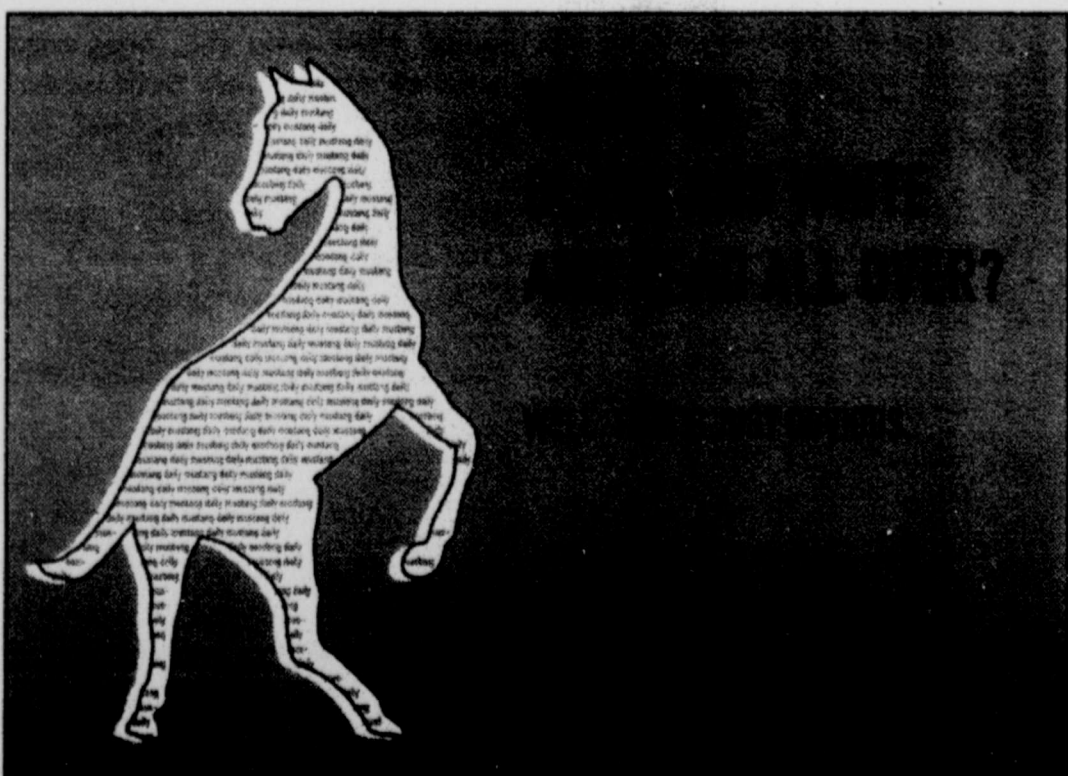
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Thursday, October 28, 2010  
Volume LXXV, No. 33 ©2009  
Mustang Daily

"It's like the Great Wall of Asia, back here."

## Society too quick in judgments of culture

I probably should not be surprised the Juan Williams story got as big as it did.

There are, after all, few topics in public life more dangerous than race and culture. And the fact that the liberal-leaning National Public Radio (NPR) fired Williams for comments made on Fox News about that topic provides irresistible ammunition for conservatives who see liberals as hypocritical on matters of free speech.

The surprise, I guess, would've been if the story had been allowed to quietly die.

Williams got in trouble for his response to a question from Fox's Bill O'Reilly about whether the nation faces "a Muslim dilemma." Said O'Reilly, "The cold truth is that in the world today jihad, aided and abetted by some Muslim nations, is the biggest threat on the planet."

Williams agreed. "I mean, look, Bill, I'm not a bigot. You know the kind of books I've written about the civil rights movement in this country. But when I get on the plane, I got to tell you, if I see people who are in Muslim garb and I think, you know, they are identifying themselves first and foremost as Muslims, I get worried. I get nervous."

Two days later, he was informed — by phone — that his years of service at NPR had come to an end.

I happen to think O'Reilly was mostly right. The attempt by some — the qualifier is important — Islamic nations and groups to intimidate and destabilize the rest of the world is, if not "the biggest threat on the planet"

not have a Middle Eastern appearance. He may not even be a he.

That said, my concern isn't whether the comments were right or wrong, but whether they were inbounds, whether they crossed that subjective

For every Don Imus, Rick Sanchez or Mel Gibson who deserved the censure and sanction their words brought down, we lately seem to have a Juan Williams, a Shirley Sherrod or a Harry Reid whose crime is not what they said but "that" they said and that someone felt no obligation to listen before passing judgment. Indeed, in matters of racial and cultural difference, some of us seem to feel it a sin even to acknowledge the existence thereof.

Joe Biden was pilloried in many forums, including this one, for seeming to call Barack Obama the first black presidential candidate "who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy." Except that if you actually "listen" to what he said — most transcripts mis-edited the quote — it becomes clear he was making another point entirely.

There's a moral to that experience: Few issues are more in need of serious discussion than race and culture. And while we should be vigilant against those who would drag that discussion into the mire of bigotry, we also owe people the courtesy of listening to what they've said before judging it. After all, a subjective line is still a line.

And if you keep fooling around with a hair trigger, sooner or later, someone is going to get hurt.

*Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the Miami Herald.*



MARGARET SCOTT NEWSART

MSGTT

North Korea and global warming might have something to say about that), certainly in the top three. And no, nothing in that observation is inconsistent with the demand that the vast majority of peaceful Muslims be left alone to worship and live as they see fit.

I also think Williams was mostly wrong. Seems to me your average terrorist is unlikely to dress in a way that screams Muslim. I'm thinking T-shirt, ball cap and jeans. He may

but critical line between fair commentary and rank bigotry. I don't believe they did, especially given that Williams went on to decry the tendency to smear all Muslims with the misdeeds of a few. That context suggests his intent was to question — not justify — his own paranoia.

And in firing him, NPR shows not the commitment to journalistic guidelines it has cited, but rather, a capacity for hair-trigger response. There's a lot of that going around.



## Hasty generalization!

In your article you assume that everyone in this country distrusts our government and even "hates" it. This is completely untrue because many people, like myself, enjoy knowing the fact that people are in control. This is the reason I vote on candidates and propositions to make a change that I want to see. This personal power allows me to trust my government. Sure there have been political figures in the past that have abused their power, like Nixon, but we check their power through the watchful eye of the media. Sure, American politics has a long way to go, nobody ever said it was perfect, but to assume that nobody trusts

their government is a hasty generalization. Your basing your argument on a small sample which in no way represents the whole population.

On a side note, the analogy you used while talking about Kennedy was very interesting. I can see what you mean when you say that history is like a box of cereal where we only "look for the toy."

— Anthony

*In response to "Mistrusting the government is mistrusting ourselves."*

In order to gain more revenue, "part ... will be from private sources," Glidden said. He also said he hoped that alumni would give more to the university ...

Is it possible that alumni aren't giving as generously because they've concluded Cal Poly is a state run institution that is rife with the compensation and pension abuses found at other state and municipal organi-

zations?

Only two weeks ago university faculty members took exception to provost Robert Koob blatantly spiking the salaries of retiring employees so they'd get higher pensions. With this kind of activity taking place, why in the world would alumni want to step forward?

You blew it Bob and people have taken notice.

— Robert

*In response to "A midterm discussion with Interim President Glidden."*

Cal Poly placed 4th in the nation in Division-1 ahead of schools like Stanford, Berkeley, University of Nevada-Reno, University of Vermont, Texas A&M, San Diego State, Colorado State, University of Arizona, etc. The only teams Cal Poly lost to were University of Colorado-Boulder, Ft. Lewis College and Lees-McRae College. Pretty dang good! They didn't

lose to a bunch of community colleges. They faced the highest level of collegiate competition in this race and did extremely well. What makes it even better is that cycling is a varsity sport for some schools, with scholarships awarded to their best riders. The Cal Poly Wheelmen is a sports club run by the students.

— Matt

*In response to "Cal Poly Wheelmen place fourth at national collegiate bike race."*

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## The New York Times Crossword

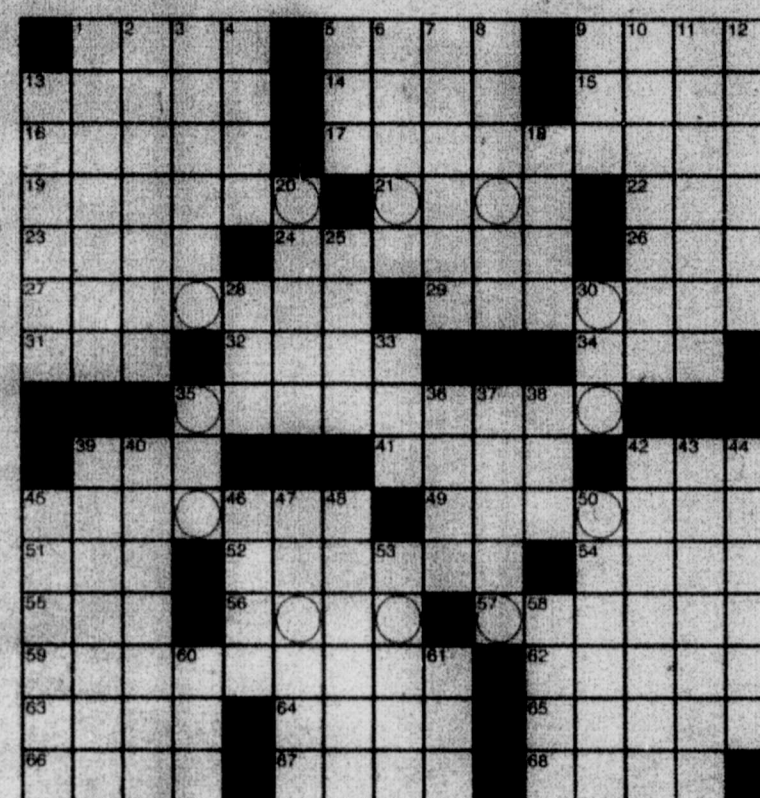
Note: When this puzzle is completed, the circled letters, starting at 21-Across and reading clockwise, will reveal the first part of 17-Across.

- Across**
- Like many a cellar
  - "The Usual Suspects" setting
  - Peddle
  - Suit material?
  - Unwanted spots
  - Ireland's Islands
  - Come next
  - Musical work in four parts, with its first part opening the Met's 2010-11 season
  - Went off on a tangent
  - Sugar
  - Letters between a name and a nickname
  - Hebrides isle
  - Meet, as expectations
  - Turkey
  - With 6-Down, genetic carriers
  - Divining rods
  - Somme time
  - Kramer, 2010 Dutch Olympic gold medalist in speed skating
  - Practice
  - Attendee at a 17-Across performance
  - Bottom line
  - Boomers' kids
  - What you might need after a breakdown
  - Clog up
  - Savings vehicle
  - Decide
  - Rouge
  - Eat like
  - Hosp. test in a tube

- Down**
- Letters on a crucifix
  - Yankee Howard, 1963 A.L. M.V.P.
  - Singing voices in the 17-Across
  - "Mio"
  - All over
  - Parcel (out)
  - First company to successfully manufacture bubblegum
  - Bother
  - In Yanks
  - Trueheart of the comics

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0923



Puzzle by David J. Kahn

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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AMOLE EPA NEXUS  
ROSES RIA DIETS  
LEIFERICSSON  
IBN SID INERT  
NAGS CELINEDION  
HAH ONES BTU  
PRESIDENT WILSON  
ITA GREG ASP  
PERIHELION DRAW  
STRAD SOS ERE  
OLD MACDONALD  
GAUNT OVA LADED  
APNEA OER ILENE  
STARR SRS DARED

- 28 Medium strength?  
30 Big  
33 Kvetch  
35 "Yikes!" online  
36 Spice Girl Halliwell  
37 Down knee  
38 No. after a no.  
39 Singing voice in the 17-Across  
40 Peppy  
42 Sneaks (around)  
43 Birds with hanging nests  
44 Composer of the 17-Across  
45 Fighting  
46 Issue  
47 County next to Napa  
48 Hurt's "Body Heat" co-star  
50 Bother  
53 Mislead, and more  
58 Artist's pad?  
60 W.W. II site, briefly  
61 Clinch, with "up"

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## Mustang Maniacs keep the crowd on its feet and players on their game

Kelly Cooper

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Kyle Rosso, co-chair of Cal Poly's official spirit squad, the Mustang Maniacs, recalled his most memorable Maniacs moment — the last game of the 2008 football season, which had not only the playoffs but the Great West title on the line.

"Cal Poly was having a fantastic season," the history senior said. "We only lost two games that season. This was our last game and it was the rivalry game between Cal Poly and UC Davis."

With the game tied at 21-21 at halftime, Rosso and the rest of the Maniacs weren't sure of the fate of the biggest rivalry of the season.

"With about five minutes left, we went over by the football team and waited until time ran out," Rosso said.

Cal Poly pulled ahead with a final score of 51-28, officially sending the team to the playoffs and claiming the Great West title. Also on the line? The Golden Horseshoe, Cal Poly and UC Davis' rivalry trophy, which had been in Davis' hands the previous year.

"The team ran to the middle of the field, the fans are going crazy, the fans are chanting 'Playoffs,'" Rosso said. "So (we) get the Golden Horseshoe trophy and the team is in the middle of the field with the Great West flag. Then (we) come onto the field and the football team turns around and

sees that we have the trophy. They're stoked, everybody has their hands just motioning, 'Give me the trophy, I want it!' We go over, we hand it to the football team, they sprint over to the student section and the students are going crazy and they all sing 'Ride High.' It was just a fantastic night."

Those moments are what the Maniacs are ultimately trying to create — student sections so loud you can't hear yourself think, cheers every fan knows and bleachers covered in a sea of green. Now that they're

collaborating with Poly Reps — Cal Poly's student representative program — the Maniacs might be on the right track to creating that experience for every sporting event.

The Maniacs have been around for approximately 10 years, forming after the termination of the previous spirit squad — the Running Thunder — due to questionable behavior during a Santa Barbara basketball game. The Maniacs popped up a few years after the incident and have been the only official Cal Poly spirit squad endorsed by Cal Poly Athletics. Essentially, it's a mixture of a club and an organization, Rosso said.

"We've always had this awkward dual-citizenship between being a club and working with an already established thing on campus with Cal Poly Athletics," Rosso said.

Club or not, the Maniacs take care of a lot more athletics-based

things," Rosso said.

Rosso said the Maniacs don't have trouble getting people to attend the games, but organization has been a constant issue.

"It hasn't been a problem having students show up for the events, it's been more of a problem getting students involved in board positions," Rosso said.

Rosso's co-chair and president of Poly Reps Julian Wagner said Cal Poly Athletics saw Poly Reps as an outlet for more organized fan support.

"Athletics was looking to change it up a little bit and they viewed Poly Reps as a

group that would be capable of putting time into it and making it something a little bit different and something a little bit more," the business administration senior said. "Essen-

tially this is just kind of a pilot year. We're trying some new programs, changing it up a bit and kind of just seeing what we can do to make it better and have a packed house every single time one of our teams play."

As far as changes go, the collaborative has started a \$15 membership program, which offers members discounts around town as well as on the official Maniacs t-shirt.

"We're just trying to give students something more to be excited about when it comes to sports," Wagner said.

Wagner said the collaboration came about because the athletics department had noticed an influx of student support over the past few years.

"I think especially last year they saw the potential with Cal Poly students' excitement for sports, especially with the Santa Barbara basketball game where Mott Gym sold out

see Maniacs, page 22

**The Maniacs add enthusiasm to our team as well as the rest of the crowd.**

— Joe Callero  
Cal Poly men's basketball coach

events than just filling seats at games. In addition to leading sports crowds in loud cheers, the Maniacs take care of the P, organize road trips to away games, maintain rivalry trophies such as the Golden Horseshoe and fill the suit of Musty the mascot.

This year marks the first year the Maniacs will team up with Poly Reps and the Alumni Association. Rosso said he hopes that with the collaboration, the Maniacs will become a more official group.

"It is hopefully more of a way of solidifying the Mustang Maniacs from year to year in terms of making sure it exists and has people to do

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## Maniacs

continued from page 21

and we keep having record amounts of people at soccer games," Wagner said. "So I think the past couple years it's been getting bigger and bigger and it's time to get a more structured program in place for the students to go to the games."

Both Rosso and Wagner said that in 10 years time, Cal Poly could have fan sections as big and rowdy as those on ESPN — with die-hard, face-painted Maniacs flooding the seats.

"We want it to be the giant student sections you see at UCLA, USC, Notre Dame, things like that; all of those student sections are paid for and funded," Rosso said.

Wagner said he always remembers being in the student section at UCLA basketball games before he was in college.

"When I was younger, my sister was at UCLA and she used to always sneak me into the student section during basketball games," Wagner said. "There's nothing (compared to) being in the student section on the floor at a UCLA-USC basketball game; it's literally a life-changing experience. It would be cool to at least get the foundations for that going for the years to come."

Rosso said he hopes the program will help Cal Poly Athletics become a bigger name.

"Reputations for a lot of colleges are based in their sports programs," Rosso said. "I have no idea what the biggest major is at Ohio State, but

I know they were number one and they just got beat by Alabama. Boise State would not be on the map if they didn't win the Fiesta Bowl a few years back and one of their football players proposed to a cheerleader. We want to make Cal Poly a household name in that type of way."

Cal Poly men's basketball head coach Joe Callero said he thinks the Maniacs already play a significant role in the success of Cal Poly sports.

"The Maniacs add enthusiasm to our team as well as the rest of the crowd," Callero said. "They set the tone at home games and Cal Poly has a reputation of great crowds."

For now, the Maniacs are focusing on finding an organizational flow as well as channeling student spirit — in the right way. Media chair for the Maniacs and biological sciences senior Alison Davis said the Mustangs are working on balancing the athletic department's restraints and the overall attitude of the fans.

"We're keeping it within a more positive thing rather than a negative," Davis said. "They just want to keep it positive and make sure we're representing Poly to the best we can."

Rosso agrees with Davis and said the atmosphere for the fans and the representation of Cal Poly as a whole is the running central idea within the collaboration.

"Athletics is a huge part of the college experience and we want to make sure that we provide that experience in the right atmosphere in the best way we can," Rosso said. "Cal Poly is a fantastic university — not just academically, but athletically. We have

20 D-I sports competing at the highest level and so we just kind of want to convey that to the students."

However, there is one Division-I sport the Maniacs don't have a grip on. The Maniacs can't take their spirit as far as they'd like to with soccer because the Mustang Manglers — an unofficial soccer fan organization which is not recognized by Cal Poly Athletics — already has the upper hand, Rosso said.

"We're very happy that there is another group here supporting Cal Poly Athletics and teams such as soccer," Rosso said. "The Mustang Maniacs want to work with the Manglers to be more efficient, bigger, all those things, but there hasn't been persistence on that part."

The Maniacs don't want to create any sort of rivalry between the two groups and will continue to support soccer regardless of who controls the student section, Rosso said.

"We don't want to alienate the group that's already there," Rosso said. "We want to hold out a hand in terms of wanting to work together, rather than starting a competing group somewhere else."

Although the Maniacs do endorse all Cal Poly sports, regrettably, they're not able to attend every sporting event, Rosso said.

"For fall quarter, we really need to focus on the sports that are the big names and the big money for Cal Poly and that's always football and soccer," Rosso said. "So we have to devote all our time to those sports mainly. We just need more support."

On their continuous search for

more Maniacs, there is one day in the season that won't lack one empty seat in the stadium — Nov. 13. That date marks

the night, once again, when the home of the Golden Horseshoe Trophy will be decided between Cal Poly and UC Davis. The game — to the Maniac's delight — is at home.

"I want that damn horseshoe back," Davis said.

In fact, 2008's Poly-Davis game marked a special night for who walked

a temporary and memory con-

Cal rivalry a special night for who walked away with a temporary souvenir — a mild cushion. Davis had taken the position as Musty the Mustang for two years and recalls the time someone wanted to give Musty a bigger hug than she anticipated.

"It was at a football game — I was over by the student section and this girl jumped from the student section — I had my arms out to give her a hug because a lot of people love to give

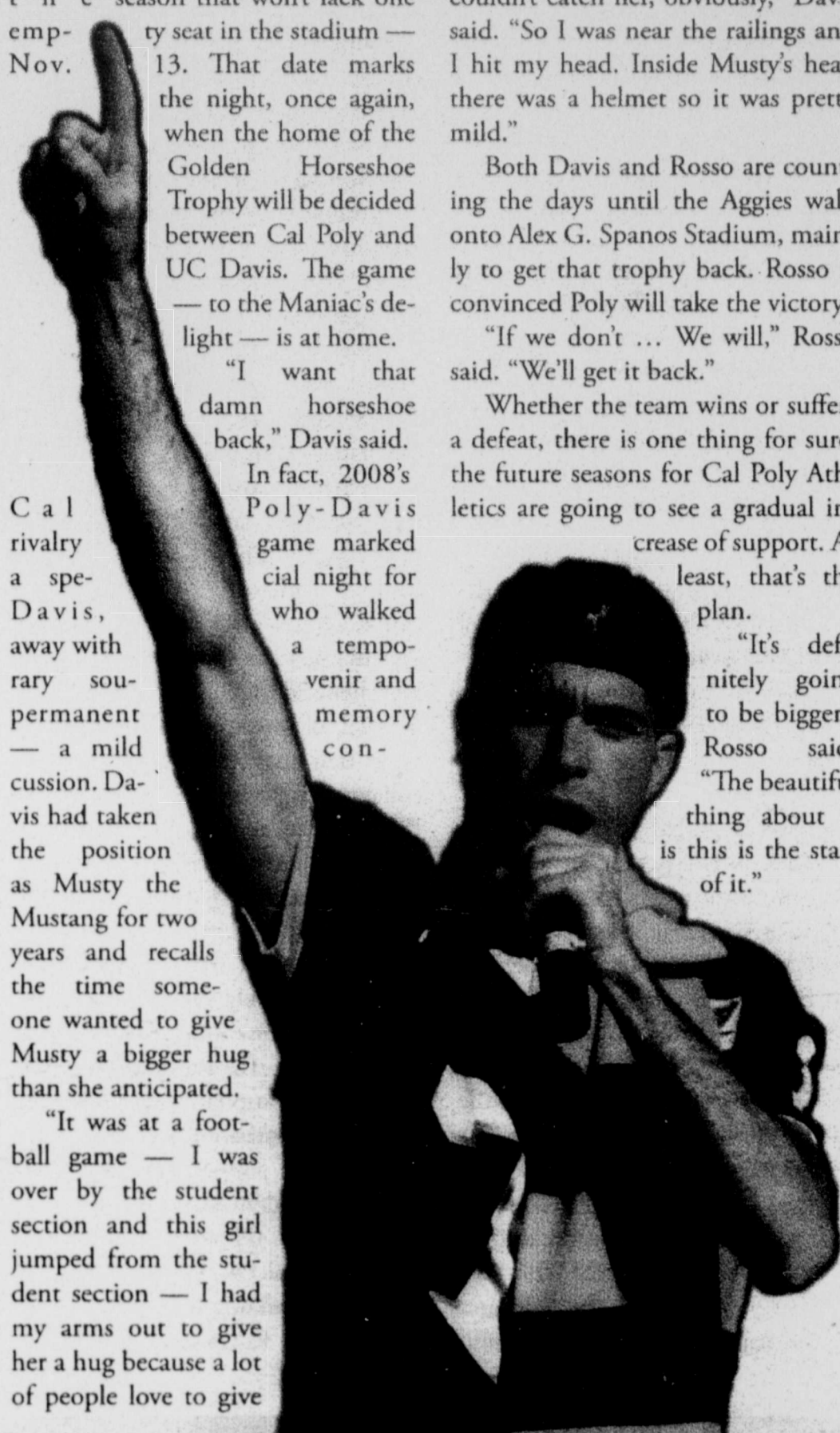
Musty hugs — and she jumped and I couldn't catch her, obviously," Davis said. "So I was near the railings and I hit my head. Inside Musty's head there was a helmet so it was pretty mild."

Both Davis and Rosso are counting the days until the Aggies walk onto Alex G. Spanos Stadium, mainly to get that trophy back. Rosso is convinced Poly will take the victory.

"If we don't ... We will," Rosso said. "We'll get it back."

Whether the team wins or suffers a defeat, there is one thing for sure: the future seasons for Cal Poly Athletics are going to see a gradual increase of support. At least, that's the plan.

"It's definitely going to be bigger," Rosso said. "The beautiful thing about it is this is the start of it."



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## Games

continued from page 24

end zone on his own once. Overall, Cal Poly rushed for 252 yards and passed for 326 yards in one of the most impressive offensive games on the year. Texas State passed for 290 yards with only 91 yards rushing.

With 9,352 fans packed into a stadium that normally averaged about 8,500 people, this particular homecoming game was special for Russell.

"There is a sense of pride during homecoming," Russell said. "You want to make friends, family and alumni proud."

For Russell this was the most memorable homecoming game he had ever played in.

"It was an exciting season that year," Russell said. "It was the best team I played on and we got gipped by not getting a playoff bid because we definitely deserved it that year," Russell said.

The Mustangs won the game 38-21 and finished 9-2 on the season.

### Cal Poly vs. North Dakota State — Nov. 10, 2007

In 2007, Cal Poly faced No. 1 North Dakota State with 10,899 fans in attendance, making the game one of the highest attended homecoming games of the decade.

"The atmosphere of that game was the best at homecoming thus far," said Will Mitchell, who was a redshirt freshman in 2007. "The entire student body was there and the intensity was crazy."

The previous season, the Bison defeated Cal Poly 51-14. Entering the 2007 season, the Mustangs were constantly reminded of the score by a sign in the weight room.

"When we got the chance to play them again, remembering that sign was a big incentive for us to play as hard as we could," said Scottie Cordier, who was also a redshirt freshman in 2007.

The Mustangs arrived in full force, both offensively and defensively.

"We came out and played our game," Cordier said. "The stands were packed and the crowd noise was amazing."

Cal Poly started off with a touchdown in each of the first three quarters while the Bison only managed to score a field goal each quarter.

Going into the final quarter, the Bison were down 28-9. At this point, the Mustangs thought they had the game in the bag, Mitchell said.

"We got comfortable and they came back in that last quarter," Mitchell said.

North Dakota State strung three touchdown drives together in eight plays. The Bison took the lead 31-28 as the Mustangs attempted to get down the field — only managing to reach the 43-yard line before time expired and North Dakota State earned the win.

"I was just in shock," Mitchell said. "We were really disappointed in ourselves."

For some players, it was like fall-

ing from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. Cordier said he felt empty after the loss.

"We played every down like it was our last," he said. "There was nothing else we could have wanted more than to win that game."

If anything positive came from the loss, Mitchell said the game set the tone for the 2008 season. That year, the Mustangs went 8-3 overall — making it to the NCAA FCS playoffs.

### Cal Poly vs. Southern Utah — Oct. 17, 2009

Under new head coach Tim Walsh, the Mustangs' football squad finished 4-7 in regular season play in 2009. Despite that, they had a few impressive performances — one of those being against Southern Utah in the homecoming game.

After a tough loss on the road to Montana, the Mustangs were itching for a crucial win at home.

"We were 2-3 and we wanted to get to an even record and back on the winning side," Cordier said.

However, Southern Utah always seems to give the Mustangs a run for their money, Mitchell said.

"They are our toughest conference game," Mitchell said.

Quarterback Tony Smith agreed and said the Thunderbirds are a team that does not get the respect it deserves nationally.

At the end of the first quarter, both teams were tied 7-7. With almost five minutes until halftime, Jon Hall scored a touchdown to take the lead. After halftime, the Thunderbirds evened the score again with another score.

Then, with a little more than nine minutes left in the game, the Thunderbirds kicked a field goal, bringing them to a four-point deficit.

With 1:51 left to play, Smith took the ball to the end zone to bring the score to 24-17.

"I specifically remember that being like an ad-lib play," Smith said. "Hall had a great block for me and I was happy to get the lead up to seven."

That's when things got interesting. With nine seconds left on the clock, Thunderbird quarterback Cade Cooper connected with Tysson Poots for the touchdown.

"It was a bender route right in front of me," Cordier said. "The quarterback threw it right in there and my hand was on the ball ... but I couldn't rip it out."

When Southern Utah decided not to go for the two-point conversion, the Mustangs were expecting overtime.

"That was obviously a momentum taker, but we were ready for overtime," Smith said.

That was until the Thunderbirds' kicker Ryan Griffith missed the extra point — giving the Mustangs the victory, 24-23.

"I was just happy it was somebody else," Cordier said. "It's hard, people miss kicks every week. I was just glad that time it wasn't us."

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# A look back at the top homecoming football games of the decade

Amanda Sedo

AMANDASEDO.MD@GMAIL.COM

Homecoming football games hold a special place in Cal Poly history. These are games where alumni, parents and students come together at one place to honor Cal Poly. Within the last 10 years there have been

exciting wins and heart-wrenching losses for the Cal Poly football team.

Since 2000, the Mustangs are 5-4 overall during homecoming games. In the past, they have faced teams such as UC Davis, Texas State, South Dakota State, North Dakota State and Southern Utah.

While there have been many

**There is a sense of pride during homecoming ... you want to make friends, family and alumni proud.**

— Jonah Russell  
Former Cal Poly wide receiver

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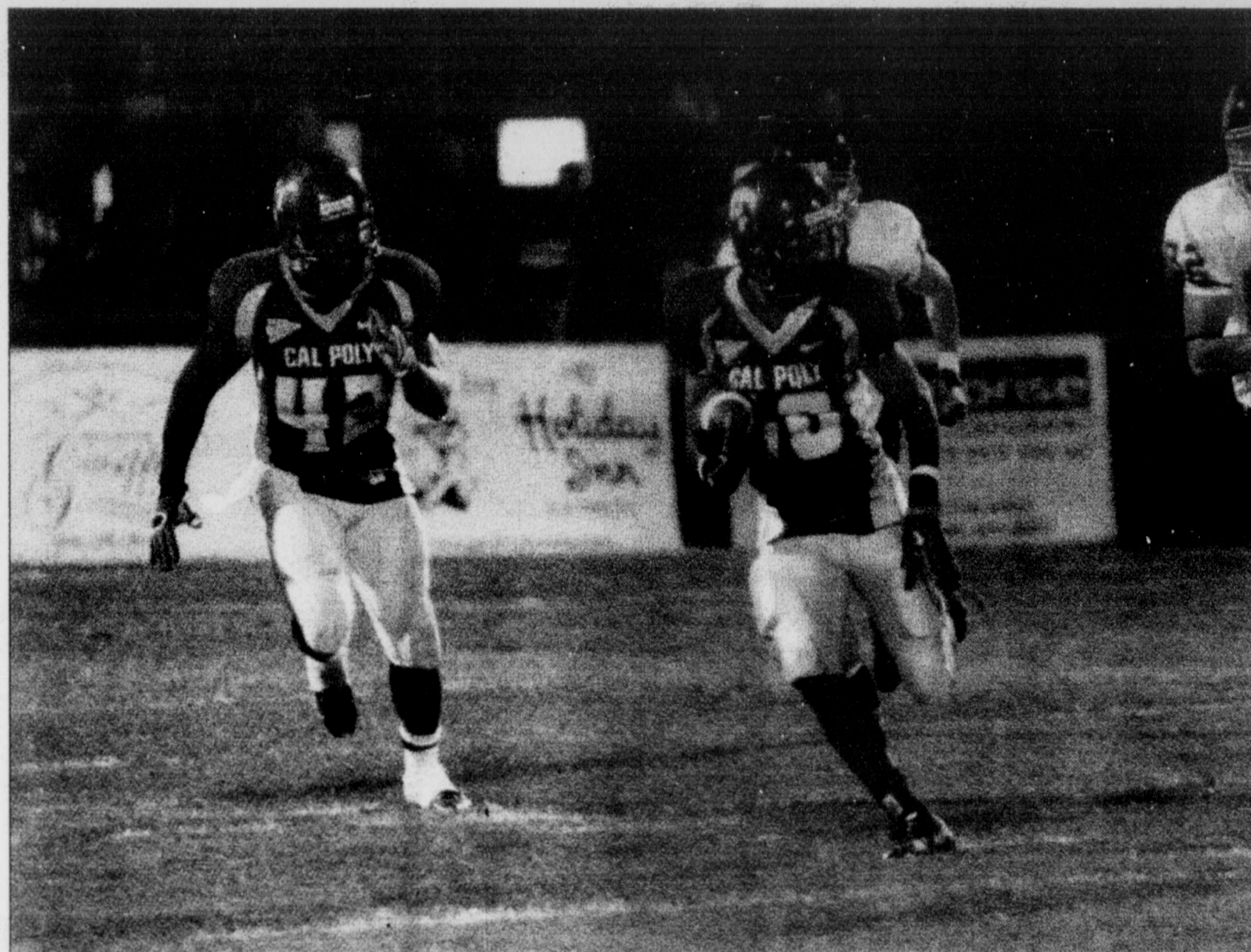
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tough games within the last 10 years, there were three games which stand out in particular.

**Cal Poly vs. Texas St. — Oct. 16, 2004**

The Mustangs were 6-0 going into their homecoming game against Texas State. During the game, the Mustangs plowed through the Bobcats while the rain poured down on both teams.

"It rained really, really hard and we were soaked with mud," said Jonah Russell, a junior wide receiver



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Defensive back Scottie Cordier (10) racked up five tackles against Southern Utah for the Mustangs' homecoming game in 2009.

back in 2004.

As the water soaked the grass at Alex G. Spanos Stadium, the Mustangs plowed through the Texas State defense.

"The offense had a turning point during that game," Russell said. "We normally struggled, but Anthony Garnett started and the offense really

came out strong."

The Mustangs scored two touchdowns in the first quarter and held a two-score lead for the rest of the game.

Russell said he remembers the last drive of the game specifically because he caught a pass from Garnett and kept the clock running until the final

seconds of the game.

"During the last drive, we normally panicked, but we kept the offense on the field so (the Bobcats) didn't have a chance to score," Russell said.

Garnett threw four touchdown passes and also took the ball to the

see Games, page 23

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